

CHAPTER XII.

HEALTH.

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DISEASES.

EXCEPT a fatal form of intermittent fever which came from Kánara about 1862 and for years wasted the western sub-divisions Dhárwár is a healthy district. The commonest and most fatal disease is intermittent fever. It is caught in forest and watered tracts and is often fatal. In the latter half (July - December) of 1818 cholera prevailed to a frightful degree causing immense mortality in the army and among the people generally.¹ At Hubli in three days two officers and upwards of one hundred men were carried off by cholera.² The next serious outbreak of cholera which has been traced was in 1865-66 when between November 1865 and October 1866, 10,024 fatal cases occurred. In 1869 between January and October, of 2712 cases reported 1459 proved fatal. During this outbreak in the town of Dhárwár, 305 of 557 seizures were fatal. In 1876 and 1877 during the famine large numbers died of a cholera which was brought on by bad water and want of food. Small-pox visits the district periodically and usually during the hot months causing many deaths. Guineaworm is more or less common during the hot months. Probably from the scarcity and the badness of the water it took an epidemic form during the 1876-77 famine.

HOSPITALS,
1882.

In 1882 besides the civil hospital at Dhárwár there were three grant-in-aid dispensaries one each at Hubli, Gadag, and Háveri. The number of patients treated was 44,307, of whom 43,692 were out-door and 615 in-door patients; the cost was £2565 (Rs. 25,650). The following details are taken from the 1882 reports:

Dhárwár.

The Dhárwár civil hospital was removed to the new hospital building on the 1st of June 1882. The prevailing diseases are parasitic diseases, ague, skin diseases, chest eye and ear affections, rheumatism, and bowel-complaints. In 1882 cholera appeared in a sporadic form in some parts of the sub-division. 5276 out-patients and 356 in-patients were treated at a cost of £1427 (Rs. 14,270).

¹ Bombay Courier, 19th December 1818.

² The following story of the origin of the great plague of cholera in 1818 and 1819 is widely known and believed in Sátára and in the Bombay Kánarese districts. Adil Sháh of Bijápúr was a magician. He had power over spirits and diseases. At Bijápúr he built a house with strong walls and a round stone roof. The house had no windows and no doors. He left a little hole and by his power over them he drove in all diseases cholera, small-pox, and fever, and shut the whole. After this the people were free from disease. When the English took Bijápúr an officer saw this strong building without a window or a door. He thought it was to store money. He asked the people what was the use of this strong house with neither a window nor a door. The people said cholera and small-pox and fever were shut in the house and no one should open it. The English officer thought that this showed there was money in the house and that the king had told the people this story so that no man might touch his treasure. The officer broke down the wall and the house inside was empty. Cholera and small-pox spread over the land and especially in Dhárwár many soldiers and many officers died.

The Hubli dispensary was established in 1859. The commonest diseases are fevers, skin-diseases and ulcers, rheumatic and syphilitic affections, ophthalmia, and intestinal worms. In 1882 no epidemic occurred. 12,490 out-patients and 148 in-patients were treated at a cost of £442 (Rs. 4420).

The Gagad dispensary was opened in 1864. The principal diseases are malarious fevers, rheumatic and syphilitic affections, ophthalmia and inflammation of the ear, chest affections, bowel-complaints, and skin-diseases. In 1882 13,052 out-patients and 52 in-patients were treated at a cost of £341 (Rs. 3410).

The Háveri dispensary was opened in 1878 in a hired house; but a new dispensary is being built. The commonest diseases are skin-diseases, malarious fevers, intestinal worms, and ulcers. In 1882 cholera prevailed in the neighbourhood during the month of May. During the year 12,874 out-patients and 59 in-patients were treated at a cost of £355 (Rs. 3550).

In 1883 twenty-four persons seven of whom were new admissions, were confined in the Dhárwár Lunatic Asylum. Of these four improved and were made over to their relatives, and two died. The remaining eighteen, eleven men and seven women, were under care on the 31st of December. Of these seven suffered from acute mania, three from chronic mania, two from acute dementia, and twelve from chronic dementia. The general health of the inmates was fair. Of sixteen cases of illness admitted for treatment ten were discharged, two died, and four remained in the hospital.

According to the 1881 census 1686 persons (males 981, females 705) or 0·19 per cent of the population were infirm. Of the total number 1541 (males 894, females 647) were Hindus; 139 (males 83, females 56) Musalmáns; and 6 (males 4, females 2) Christians. Of 1686 the total number of infirm persons 130 (males 85, females 45) or 7·71 per cent were of unsound mind, 810 (males 474, females 336) or 48·04 per cent were blind, 584 (males 300, females 284) or 34·63 per cent were deaf and dumb, and 162 (males 122, females 40) or 9·60 per cent were lepers. The details are:

Dhárwár Infirm People, 1881.

	HINDUS.		MUSALMA'NS.		CHRISTIANS.		TOTAL.	
	Males.	Females	Males.	Females	Males.	Females	Males.	Females
Insane ...	77	41	8	4	...	...	85	45
Blind ...	482	308	40	26	2	2	474	336
Deaf-Mutes ...	276	204	23	20	1	...	300	284
Lepers ...	109	34	12	6	1	...	122	40
Total ...	894	647	83	56	4	2	981	705

In 1883-84 under the supervision of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner Southern Deccan Registration District the work of vaccination was carried on by eighteen vaccinators with yearly salaries varying from £16 16s. (Rs. 168) to £28 16s. (Rs. 288). Of the operators fourteen were distributed over the rural parts of the district, and, of the remaining four, one was posted at each of the towns of Dhárwár, Gadag, Hubli, and Ránebennur. Besides the vaccinators

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the medical officer of the Haveri dispensary carried on vaccine operations. The total number of operations was 28,430 besides 738 re-vaccinations compared with 13,744 primary vaccinations in 1869-70.

The following statement shows the sex, religion, and age of the persons primarily vaccinated :

Dhárwār Vaccination Details, 1869-70 and 1883-84.

YEAR.	PRIMARY VACCINATIONS.									
	Sex.		Religion.					Age.		Total.
	Males.	Females	Hindus.	Musal-máns.	Pársis.	Chris-tians.	Others.	Under One Year.	Over One Year.	
1869-70 ...	7393	6351	11,598	1901	2	63	180	2262	11,482	13,744
1883-84 ...	14,624	13,806	23,542	3907	1	59	921	12,163	16,267	28,430

In 1883-84 the total cost of these operations, exclusive of those performed in one dispensary was £831 14s. (Rs. 8317) or about 7½d. (4½ as.) for each successful case. The charges included supervision and inspection £279 12s. (Rs. 2796), establishment £506 18s. (Rs. 5069), and contingencies £45 8s. (Rs. 727). Of these the supervising and inspecting charges were met from Government provincial funds, while £500 8s. (Rs. 5004) were borne by the local funds of the different sub-divisions and £51 18s. (Rs. 517) were paid by the municipalities of Dhárwār, Gadag-Betgeri, and Hubli for the services of three vaccinators.

CATTLE DISEASE.

The most fatal and widespread form of cattle disease is that locally known as *hirebeni*. In this disease, which is prevalent at all seasons but is most fatal during the hot weather, the animal refuses food but drinks freely. A fluid discharges from the eyes and nostrils, the stools are frequent and bloody, and the urine scanty and highly coloured. The disease lasts three or four days and is generally fatal. The disease prevails in the black soil plain as well as in the hilly west; it seems to be worse where the soil is red and hard.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The total number of deaths shown in the Sanitary Commissioner's yearly reports, for the eighteen years ending 1883, is 475,035 or an average mortality of 26,391, or, according to the 1881 census, of thirty in every thousand of the population. Of the average number of deaths 13,401 or 50·77 per cent were returned as due to fevers, 1891 or 7·16 per cent to cholera, 743 or 2·81 per cent to small-pox, 4259 or 16·13 per cent to bowel complaints, and 5747 or 21·77 per cent to miscellaneous diseases. Deaths from violence or injuries averaged 346 or 2·81 per cent of the average mortality. An examination of the returns shows that fever, which, during the eighteen years ending 1883 caused an average yearly mortality of 13,401 or 50·77 per cent, was below the average in twelve years and above the average in the six years ending 1880. Three years 1866 1867 and 1870 had less than 7000 deaths, the lowest total being 6183 in 1866; two years 1868 and 1869 had between 7000 and 8000; two years 1871 and 1873 between 9000 and 10,000; two years 1872 and 1883 between 10,000 and 11,000; and three years 1874 1881 and 1882 between

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11,000 and 13,000. Of the six years above the average, 1876 had 13,515, 1880 had 13,917, 1879 had 17,802, 1875 had 17,818, 1878 had 29,082, and 1877 the famine year 39,915. Of the deaths from cholera, which amounted to 34,045 and averaged 1891, 11,192 or 32·87 per cent happened in 1866, 8779 or 25·78 per cent in 1877, and 7092 or 20·83 per cent in 1876. The only other years which were over the average were 1869 with 2691 deaths and 1875 with 2288. Except in 1878 when the number was 1790, and in 1882 when it was 130, in none of the other years were there more than thirty deaths, and four years, 1871 1874 1879 and 1880, were free from cholera. Of the deaths from small-pox, which amounted to 13,377 and averaged 743, 2653 or 19·83 per cent happened in 1872, 2642 or 19·75 per cent in 1877, 1645 or 12·29 per cent in 1868, and 1250 or 9·41 per cent in 1873. Besides these years three years had a more than average mortality from small-pox, 1869 with 894, 1871 with 845, and 1867 with 816. Four years 1870, 1874, 1876 and 1883 had between 500 and 400 deaths, 1866 had 393, 1875 had 238, 1878 had 109, 1882 had thirteen, 1880 had two, and the remaining two years 1879 and 1881 were free from small-pox. Of the deaths from bowel-complaints which amounted to 76,666 or 4259 a year, eleven years were below the average, and seven, the seven years ending 1877, were above the average. The smallest number of deaths from bowel-complaints in any one of the eighteen years was 2084 in 1867 and the largest was 12,230 in 1877. Injuries, with a total of 6251 and an average of 346, varied from 257 in 1869 to 658 in 1877. Other causes with a total mortality of 103,453 and an average mortality of 5747 varied from 3394 in 1867 to 19,633 in 1877.

Birth returns are available only for the thirteen years ending 1883. During these thirteen years the number of births averaged 27,197. The yearly totals vary from a lowest of 9966 in 1878 to 38,927 in 1883. The details are:

Dhárwár Births and Deaths, 1866-1883.

YEAR.	DEATHS.							BIRTHS.
	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Bowel Complaints.	Injuries.	Other Causes.	Total.	
1866	11,192	393	6183	2503	233	4366	24,925	...
1867	6	816	6710	2084	296	3394	13,806	...
1868	2	1645	7862	2791	278	4172	16,750	...
1869	2691	894	7005	3611	257	4737	19,195	...
1870	1	491	6834	3817	304	4820	16,267	...
1871 ... ..	...	845	9240	6283	319	5892	21,579	26,431
1872	24	2653	10,395	5588	299	6532	25,341	28,866
1873	17	1250	9126	4509	327	6165	21,394	28,477
1874 ... ..	...	485	11,165	4529	362	5304	21,345	28,371
1875	2238	238	17,818	4686	350	5158	30,583	27,794
1876	7092	408	13,515	4718	299	5694	31,726	28,568
1877	3779	2642	39,915	12,230	658	19,633	33,557	21,303
1878	1790	109	29,082	4072	577	6735	42,365	9966
1879 ... ..	...	...	17,802	2461	446	3850	24,558	16,927
1880 ... ..	...	2	13,917	3038	325	3932	21,264	23,456
1881	5	...	12,886	3167	302	4132	20,492	33,515
1882	130	13	11,448	3511	282	4554	19,933	36,257
1883	28	493	10,340	3763	283	4283	19,195	38,927
Total	34,045	13,377	241,243	76,066	6251	103,453	475,935	353,558
Average	1891	743	13,401	4259	346	5747	26,391	27,197

¹ The death returns are believed to be fairly correct and the birth returns to be incomplete.